

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13, 15-17, 21-23, 25, 26, and 28 are currently pending of which claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 are independent. Claims 1, 6, 9, 13, 16, and 22 have been amended through this Reply. Upon careful review, one would conclude that no new matter has been added to the application via this amendment. Support for this amendment can be found at least in paragraph [36] of the instant specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a Personal Interview with the Applicants' representative on November 26, 2008. During the Interview, deficiencies of the alleged obviousness rejection and possible amendments to the independent claims were discussed. Particularly, the Examiner suggested that an amendment to independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 by further clarifying how finger printing signal corresponds to the release mechanism. *Please see the Interview Summary.*

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION – Batra, Salmon, Cheng, Lin, Chiang

A. The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 6-8, 16, 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Batra (U.S. Patent 6,317,061)[hereinafter "Batra"] in view of Salmon (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0048256)[hereinafter "Salmon"] and further in view of Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,056,458)[hereinafter "Lin"] and Chiang (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,215)[hereinafter "Chiang"]. Applicants respectfully traverse.

For a Section 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. *See M.P.E.P. 2142*. One requirement to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *See*

M.P.E.P. 2142; M.P.E.P. 706.02(j). Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the biometric reader is configured to a first signal, upon verifying the biometric characteristic of the user at a first instance of time, so as to physically detach the removable section from the electro-mechanical connector, and a second signal, upon verifying the biometric characteristic of the user at a second instance of time, so as to activate the alphanumeric keys of the removable section for operation, wherein upon complete physical detachment of the removable section, the host computer and the physically detached removable section remain operably connected to each other via the base which includes a wireless receiver to receive the signal from the wireless transmitter of the removable section.” (Emphasis added.) Claim 16 has also been amended in a similar manner.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited prior art references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above-identified claim feature of independent claims 1 and 16.

Although Salmon teaches a fingerprint sensor 13 to validate and allow users to enter a keyboard 3 which is being rolled up in a cylinder 8 in its stored state, Salmon is completely silent on whether the finger print sensor 13 sends a signal to physically detach the keyboard 3 from the roll up cylinder 8. In Salmon, the keyboard is not completely physically detached from any electro-mechanical connector located on a base as required by claims 1 and 16. Further, if the keyboard 3 is physically removed from the base, the keyboard 3 will no longer be operably connected to a host computer.

In addition, in Salmon, only one signal is sent from a control means to extend the keyboard 3 for use. No other signal is sent from the control means to activate the operation keys of the keyboard. Thus, upon verifying the fingerprint of an authorized user at one point of time, the keyboard 3 of Salmon does not require any other fingerprint verification for further activating the operation keys of the keyboard 3. Thus, an unauthorized user can easily operate the keyboard 3 as long as it remains extended for operation.

Contrary to Salmon, the claimed invention provides an additional layer of security by requiring biometric verification of the user for a second time even though the removable section having the alphanumeric key has been completely detached from the base. This additional security feature is neither found nor taught in Salmon.

Batra and Lin do not fulfill at least this deficiency of Salmon.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 16 are not rendered unpatentable over Batra in view of Salmon, Lin, and Chiang.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 16 are allowable over Batra, Salmon, Lin, and Chiang. Dependent claims 2, 6-8, 17, and 21 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on corresponding independent claim.

B. Claims 9, 10, 13, 15, 22, 23, 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Batra, in view of Salmon, and further in view of Lin (US 6,529,145) [hereinafter "Lin '145"], Lin and Chiang. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended independent claim 9 now recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the fingerprint reader is configured to send a first signal, upon verifying the biometric characteristic of the user at a first instance of time, so as to physically detach the removable alphanumeric section from the connector, and a second signal, upon verifying the biometric characteristic of the user at a second instance of time, so as to activate the alphanumeric keys of the removable alphanumeric section for operation, wherein upon complete physical detachment of the removable alphanumeric section, the computer and the physically detached removable alphanumeric section remain operably connected to each other via the keyboard housing which includes a wireless receiver to receive the signal from the wireless transmitter of the removable alphanumeric section." *Emphasis added*. Claim 22 has also been amended in a similar manner.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited prior art references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified claim feature of independent claims 9 and 22.

Although Salmon teaches a finger print sensor 13 to validate and allow users to enter a keyboard 3 which is being rolled up in a cylinder 8 in its stored state, Salmon is completely silent on whether the finger print sensor 13 sends an electrical signal to physically detach the keyboard 3 from the roll up cylinder 8. In Salmon, the keyboard is not completely detached from any electro-mechanical connector as required by claims 9 and 22. Further, if the keyboard 3 is completely detached from the base, the keyboard 3 will no longer be operably connected to a host computer.

In addition, as demonstrated above in great detail with respect to claims 1 and 16, in Salmon, only one signal is sent from a control means to extend the keyboard 3 for use. No other signal is sent from the control means to activate the operation keys of the keyboard. Thus, upon verifying the fingerprint of an authorized user at one point of time, the keyboard 3 of Salmon does not require any other fingerprint verification for further activating the operation keys of the keyboard 3. Thus, an unauthorized user can easily operate the keyboard 3 as long as it remains extended for operation.

Thus, contrary to Salmon, the claimed invention provides an additional layer of security by requiring biometric verification of the user for a second time even though the removable section having the removable alphanumeric section has been completely detached from the keyboard housing.

Batra, Lin '145, Lin, and Chiang do not fulfill at least this deficiency of Salmon. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 9 and 22 are not rendered unpatentable over Batra in view of Salmon, Lin '145, and further in view of Lin or Chiang.

Dependent claims 10, 13, 15, 23, 26, and 28 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on corresponding independent claim.

C. Dependent claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Batra in view of Salmon and further in view of Lin and Chiang as applied to

claims 1, and further in view of Cheng (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174123)[hereinafter "Cheng"]. Dependent claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Batra in view of Salmon, Lin ('145), Lin ('458), and Chiang as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Cheng. Claims 5 and 25 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding independent claim.

CONCLUSION

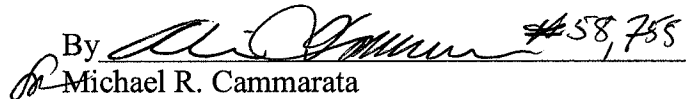
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #58,755
Michael R. Cammarata
Registration No.: 39,491
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicants